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The above factor of the seventh degree may be resolved algebraically by the transformation

$$y = x - \frac{a}{x}.$$

The result is

$$y = (-b + \sqrt{b^2 + a^7})^{1/7} + (-b - \sqrt{b^2 + a^7})^{1/7}.$$

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

REVIEWS.

Geschichte der Mathematik. II Teil, von Cartesius bis zur Wende des 18. Jahrhunderts; II. Hälfte, Geometrie und Trigonometrie. By HEINRICH WIELEITNER. Berlin, 1921, pp. vi + 220. Price, in Germany, 45 marks.

This small volume, one of the latest numbers in the well-known Sammlung Schubert, completes a work begun thirteen years ago by Professors Günther and Braunmühl,—a work much delayed by the World War. Like all volumes appearing in the Schubert series, it aims at presenting the best attainable knowledge, in a somewhat popular style, by a scholar of recognized standing, and with such a condensation of material as shall allow for its publication at a price within the reach of every teacher in Germany.

In the present work, Dr. Wieleitner has divided his material into nine chapters, as follows: I. Analytic geometry of the plane, especially as related to conic sections; II. Analytic geometry of space, including a study of surfaces; III. Higher curves in general; IV. Special curves; V. Differential geometry; VI. Perspective, and Descriptive geometry; VII. The first steps in projective geometry; VIII. Trigonometry; IX. Elementary geometry.

This is a wide range of subjects to be treated with any thoroughness in 176 pages of text, and yet it is safe to say that Dr. Wieleitner, as might have been expected from one of his scholarship and experience as a writer, has kept up the best traditions of the Sammlung Schubert. For example, he has presented in only fourteen pages the essential features of those contributions to the invention of analytic geometry made by Fermat and, to a lesser extent, by Vieta, Ghetaldi, and Cataldi, as well as those appearing in the epoch-making work of Descartes himself. In the following nineteen pages he condenses those essential topics in analytic geometry which attracted the attention of the contemporaries and the immediate successors of Descartes. Not only are the prominent features set forth, but the student is furnished with a helpful bibliography that allows him to branch out for himself,—a contribution that cannot be too highly commended.

Among the notable features of the work should be mentioned the list of curves in chapter IV. This is, of course, not so complete as the one given by Brocard in his *Notes de Bibliographie des Courbes Géométriques*, but it covers the important curves that the college student will meet in his studies, and includes a list of bibliographical references that will be of much service.

It will hardly be profitable to mention other special features of the text, or to consider the treatment of special topics. Suffice it to say that the book is worthy of the author and the series. Mention should be made, however, of the excellent bibliography at the end and of the unusually well-arranged indexes by names and by subjects.

Attention should be called frankly and distinctly to one other matter, and that is the price of the book. It may be stated at the outset that American scholars are generally desirous of seeing not only peace established among nations, but amicable relations resumed among scholars the world over. In particular, they are, in general, doing all in their power to foster good relations with their German colleagues and to arrange for an exchange of scientific literature of all kinds. But when it comes to the prices of German books they generally feel that a mistake is being made by Berlin and Leipzig publishers and by the German government. Here, for example, is a book that is published in Leipzig at 45 marks, list, subject to dealers' discount. At the current rate of exchange, this amounts to 25 cents, and yet the publisher quotes it to the American purchaser at \$2.25. Americans are perfectly willing to pay the Leipzig price, and to add thereto any reasonable export duty that may be laid, together with the regular charge for postage; but it would be difficult to find any scholar, be he librarian or teacher, who feels that he should pay any such exorbitant price as this. It gives the impression that the German publishers and government expect Americans to help Germany pay for a war which America did its best to prevent and for which it has already paid out vast sums. The opinion may be wrong, but it is the opinion that is held, and it is very safe to say that the sale of German books in this country will never assume anything like its former proportions so long as this policy or any approach to this policy continues.

DAVID EUGENE SMITH.

The Sumario Compendioso of Brother Juan Diez. The Earliest Mathematical Work of the New World. By DAVID EUGENE SMITH. Boston and London, Ginn and Company, [April] 1921. sm. 4to. 7 + 65 pp. Price \$4.00.

Let us first consider who the author of the *Sumario Compendioso* was.

In his *Rara Arithmetica*, Boston, 1908, page 286, D. E. Smith drew attention to this *Sumario* by "Juan Diaz Freyle" as "the first arithmetic printed in America." The author's name is later indexed under "Freyle" and not under either Diaz or Diez. In an address published in this MONTHLY, 1921, 10-15, Professor Smith gave a general description of the *Sumario* and its setting, and quoted typical problems "listed under algebra" and "not listed under algebra." The title-page of the original work was here reproduced in facsimile, on page 11, where the author's name is "Juan Diez freyle." In the course of his sketch Professor Smith refers to the author as simply Juan Diez. In the work under review, his translation of the author's name is "Brother Juan Diez." This may be assumed as an indication of the present result of Professor Smith's investigations in this connection.